(b) and (c) The cost of the evacuation of crude oil from the Sakhalin Island through existing terminal at Dekastry after necessary modifications and revamping of the facilities, as well as the cost of evacuation of gas from the northern part of Sakhalin Island upto the sales point of the Island through pipeline, have been taken into account in the total cost of the project.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

Recovery of aviation fuel dues from Modiluft

3955. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that BPCL has suffered a loss, to the tune of more than Rs. 8 crores because of sale of aviation fuel to Modiluft ;

(b) if so, what is the break up of amount to be recovered from Modiluft, year-wise ;

(c) the reasons for not recovering the amount from Modiluft ; and

(d) what steps are being taken or proposed to be taken to recover the amount ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The dues outstanding against fuel bills from Modiluft was Rs. 784.43 lakhs, when the Airline suspended the operations in November, 1996. Out of the outstanding amount of Rs. 7.84 crores, the Airline has paid an amount of Rs. 2.5 crores during the month of April, 2001. Consequently, the outstanding has come down to Rs. 5.34 crores. The Airline also has submitted a scheme of settlement for clearing the remaining outstanding amount. Modiluft shall pay Rs. 2.67 crores, against the principal amount due to BPCL immediately on acceptance of proposal and signing of the settlement and the balance of Rs. 2.67 crores shall be paid in six equal bi-monthly instalments. Modiluft has also agreed to pay an amount of Rs. 2.93 crores towards interest and costs in the following manner :

(1) Rs. 1.50 crores within 7 days of signing the settlement with BPCL ; and

(2) The balance interest shall be paid in 6 equal bi-monthly instalments starting with repayment of the principal instalments.

(c) and (d) When the outstanding began to increase, Modiluft was put on "cash and carry", i.e. supplies against payment in advance. However, before BPCL could recover substantial amount, the Airlines stopped their operation. There are 4 court cases against Modiluft for recovery of outstanding amount in various courts and the present settlement proposal is as a consequence of pressure enforced on the Airline for settlement of the outstanding amount.

New LPG Distributors in Andhra Pradesh

3956. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the new LPG gas connections proposed to be given during this year ;

(b) the number of new distributors proposed to be appointed in Andhra Pradesh during this year ; and

(c) whether any priority would be given to disabled and ex-employees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) Government have approved an enrolment plan of release of 1.3 crore new LPG (domestic) connections in the country during the calendar year 2001.

(b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have planned to set up 334 new LPG distributorships under various Marketing Plans in Andhra Pradesh as on 1-7-2001.

(c) As per extant guidelines 8% of the distributorships are reserved for Defence Category (DC), 8% for Paramilitary/Police/Government Personnel (PMP) and 5% for Physically Handicapped persons (PH).

Utilisation of allocated funds

†3957. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the expenditure earmarked for petroleum and natural gas during the Ninth Five Year Plan ;

(b) the expenditure earmarked for private sector and public sector respectively, during the said period ;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.